



Patient Flow Integrated Operations

Operational Control

Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise

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Understanding Patient Flow

ED to Discharge





From ED to Discharge

Patient flow is predominantly involved in the movement of patients through various stages of care within a hospital setting. This encompasses their journey from the point of entry, typically the Emergency Department (ED), through inpatient care, and finally to their discharge, whether to home or a residential care facility.

Effective patient flow ensures that patients receive

- Timely
- Efficient
- appropriate care
- minimizing delays
- optimizing the use of hospital resources
- Effective discharge planning



From ED to Discharge

Challenges to Patient Flow

- **Bottlenecks in the ED:** Overcrowding and delays in transferring patients to inpatient bed can lead to extended wait times.
- **Coordination of Care:** Ensuring seamless communication and coordination among multidisciplinary teams is crucial.
- **Discharge Delays:** Inadequate discharge planning and lack of post-discharge support can result in delayed discharges and readmissions.



From ED to Discharge

- **Strategies to Improve Patient Flow:**
- **Integration of Systems and Processes:** Use of integrated electronic health records (EHRs) and patient tracking systems to streamline information sharing and coordination.
- **Interdisciplinary Teams:** Collaboration among healthcare providers, including doctors, nurses, social workers, and discharge planners, to ensure comprehensive care.
- **Data Analytics:** Utilising real-time data and predictive analytics to identify and address bottlenecks, optimize resource allocation, and improve decision-making.
- **Patient Engagement:** Involving patients and their families in care planning and decision-making to ensure smooth transitions and adherence to post-discharge instructions.



From ED to Discharge

Transformative Impact of Integration on following Patient Outcomes

- Introduction of Additional Bed Management, Frailty Team, ANP for Triage Category 4, 5. ADON for Patient Flow and Post Triage Nurse
- **Before Integration:**
 - Long wait times [PET times]
 - Elevated readmission rates
 - Inefficient resource use
- **After Integration:**
 - 30% reduction in wait times [PET Times]
 - 20% decrease in readmission rates
 - Enhanced resource utilisation and cost savings



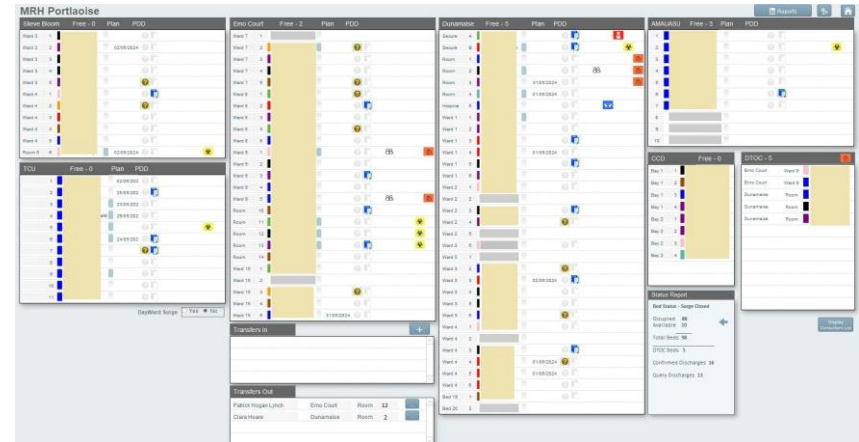
From ED to Discharge

Management of Patient Journey

- Patient – centred care
- Improved communication
- Improves satisfaction

Tools to support Patient Flow

- Interdisciplinary teamwork: collaboration between different departments (e.g., ED, radiology, surgery, discharge planning).
- Real time data sharing [Bed Tracker]
- Predictive analytics
- Senior decision maker
- Cross Cover and Weekend Cross Discharging
- Discharge to Assess





Hospital statistics



45,000

Yearly ED
attendances



1,120

Weekly ED
Attendances



160

Average Daily ED
Attendances



69

Medical and Surgical
Beds



3.8days

AVLOS